BRAW Convention Cancelled!

See Page 2

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**A Word from the Prez**

Have you heard there is a Pandemic? Amazing how fast things can change between issues! As I finished up the Spring WB the news about COVID19 was just beginning to hit. About the time the issue was in the mail the entire country was on shut down. Stay home!

Many of you are probably wondering about the Annual Convention in September. I and the BRAW board have decided to cancel it due to the pandemic. I was getting it planned when the shut down occurred. The program speakers I contacted weren’t booking future events until a vaccine is found. I hope that we can have a Spring Thing in early 2021.

We did at first. Ordered groceries online for delivery. Tried to avoid everyone. My spring programs about bluebirds were all cancelled or delayed to another time.

As spring weather came in I got the itch to get outside. My trails needed some work. I needed FRESH AIR! I began to venture out more. Boxes were cleaned and some replaced. A few bluebirds were starting to return. Things were looking up.

I heard from a few folks they weren’t going to monitor boxes this year because of the virus. They couldn’t risk it. No problem. We don’t want anyone that may be in the high risk category going out if they feel compromised doing so. For me it meant taking on another trail to monitor just south of me. I can monitor it when I’m out on my bike. I ride down and check my small trail at Elver Park then go south on the bike trail to Badger Prairie Park. I have a saddlebag for any tools I need but mostly I take a cell phone pic and transfer the info when I get home to my paper form. It’s a great way to get outside, get exercise and get my boxes checked.

Having monitored trails for over 20 years now I thought I’d seen everything. Then I found 2 unusual Tree Swallow nests at Elver Park. One is made of pine needles only and has eggs but the hen did not line the nest with feathers! (Yet) Another Tree Swallow nest was made from grass and again eggs laid but no feathers line the nest. It may be that the hens will add feathers after the full clutch is laid but in my experience this is a first.

On my trail at Brigham County park I have a white egg laying hen. First one in over 15 years. Last time I had one was at Lake Kegonsa State Park when I monitored the trail there. Only about 6% of bluebird hens lay white eggs.

Now if I could just get a haircut.

Happy Trails!
Patrick Ready
BRAW President

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**Even the Eastern Bluebird Can Be Affected By This Pandemic!**

By Steve Sample, V.P.

No, our bluebirds are not carriers of Covid 19. Yes, their nesting success may be. What am I talking about?

My primary trail of 35 boxes is on a golf course. During the beginning of March, I do what most of us do: added some boxes, repaired some, moved some and replaced some. Nothing new here at all. I actually found two bluebird pairs sitting on nesting boxes in mid March. It looked encouraging for the start of this year.

However, when I went to check my boxes for the first time for nesting activity at the end of March, I received a surprise. I was forbidden to go on the course. The course’s general manager closed the course as dictated by the governor and issued an order that no non-employee will be allowed on the course until they decide to reopen. The Green’s Superintendent, a huge supporter of my efforts, argued that what I did was important, but to no avail. Ouch. It was implied that I would be arrested for trespassing. Really!

The general manager has been there for several years and has made it clear that he would rather see my bluebird boxes be taken off the course. The two former general managers were very happy to have bluebirds and went out of their way to tell me so. This new young manager said he has never seen a bluebird and questioned whether they were around. The course maintenance person let him know otherwise. Bluebird nesting and monitoring at this course has been going on for 19 years. Some of you may recall Gary Gaard, who I believe was the first.

My best year on this site saw over 3 bluebird fledglings per box. This does not count the other species. Last year saw 1.8.

I’m confident that I will be allowed back on the course soon. Probably by the time you read this I hope. I also hope no one else has experienced this disruption as well.

There is a lesson here. Most people do not have a clue as to what and why we do this chore of monitoring nests and they also have no idea about the peril of the Eastern bluebirds and the need to help them. I have given lessons to golfers about what we all do for the last 12 years. Most are interested and non-knowledgable about our organization. I have received huge numbers of support from golfers on this course and many seek me out when they are playing.

Thank you all for your work and I know you are spreading the word.

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**BRAW & Amazon Smile!**

Amazon has developed a way to support non-profit organizations such as BRAW. If you use Amazon, log into “https://smile.amazon.com” instead of amazon.com. You will need to select BRAW as your intended organization that you support by typing Bluebird Restoration Association of Wisconsin in the appropriate line. ALL ORDERS USING THIS LOGIN WILL GENERATE A PORTION OF YOUR PURCHASE TO BRAW! The products purchased will cost you the very same as if you just log into their standard site. However, BRAW will receive 0.5% of your total purchase. It is easy and you will be supporting us without any additional cost to you.

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Wisconsin Bluebird

Summer 2020
The Triple Threat

By Gene Kroupa, Director

Bluebird nests and chicks face a triple threat to survival: 1) raccoons, 2) black flies and ants, and 3) house sparrows. While an ounce of prevention goes a long way, sometimes a healthy dose of cure is needed to keep these pests under control.

**Raccoons can wreak havoc** almost anytime from egg laying through fledging. They quickly acquire a taste for eggs and chicks. To prevent trouble, make sure the nest box entrance is protected by a Noel wire guard or a wooden block extension. Also, make it difficult for these bandits to climb the mounting pole by greasing it. Keep the pole away from a fence or post that gives this wily predator a leg up.

**Black flies can suck the life** out of chicks by repeatedly biting them for a blood meal. Female flies are attracted to the CO2 given off by incubating hens or immobile chicks. Ants are attracted by egg residue and can harass chicks to exhaustion and death. Both black fly and ant infestations can be prevented by using a diluted concentration of Permethrin-10 insecticide. Spraying the nest box entrance and all cracks both inside and out will discourage these pests. If there are eggs or chicks in the box, put a small clear jar over them before spraying. In a week, repeat the spraying but only on the outside of the box. Trim weeds and grass around the pole.

**House sparrows are especially nasty** because they bully bluebirds from the nest boxes and sometimes kill the males. Locating nest boxes away from livestock feeding areas and homes usually prevents having a problem with this invasive species. However, if a male sparrow becomes an issue, the best solution is to install a Van Ert trap. Properly used, this trap allows you to humanely live catch a sparrow for removal. Accidentally trapped bluebirds can be released unharmed. Order traps online by going to [www.vanerttraps.com](http://www.vanerttraps.com) or call 515.418.3757.

More information about dealing with bluebird predators and pests can be found at [www.braw.org](http://www.braw.org) and [www.nabuebird society.org](http://www.nabuebird society.org).

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County Coordinator Reports

By Gene Birr, CC Chair

Many of this issue’s reports from our County Coordinators have examples of events that have been postponed or canceled due to the health concerns of the current virus pandemic. I know that these health and economic challenges have made me appreciate even more the opportunity that each of us has to get out and about walking our trails, and the physical exercise and stress reduction it will bring us. As we begin to monitor our bluebird trails again this season, I hope we take the time to appreciate the pleasure of being outdoors pursuing the activity that we can enjoy doing, individually.

We continue to suffer the loss of several long-standing County Coordinators who have chosen to resign their positions due to increasing health concerns. Carol McDaniel has left her post as CC in Lafayette and Grant counties and Fred Craig has chosen to step down from his long-held position on the BRAW Board of Directors and Trempeleau CC. We thank each of them for their many years of service to BRAW and their efforts to improve the status of bluebirds throughout Wisconsin.

As you review the up-dated list of County Coordinators if your county is not listed and you would like more information contact me at 920-826-7552 or by email: gbbird22@gmail.com and I can answer any questions you may have about what being a coordinator entails. Merely listing your contact info so someone can call and ask a simple question about bluebirds may be all you choose to do. Each coordinator may decide for themselves how active they want to be. Choosing to give talks and presentations to groups interested in learning about bluebirds, or assisting others in setting up bluebird trails after finding suitable nesting habitat are measures that can enhance the efforts we all can take to advance the future success of bluebirds.

**Jack Bartholmai, Dodge County**

On Leap Day, February 29th, I presented videos and photos of cavity nesting ducks, highlighting the leaping of Wood Ducks, Hooded Mergansers, and Bufflehead young that were on my nest box trails in Dodge Co.

On March 3rd, I gave a presentation of the Life History of the Eastern Bluebird to the Atwood Conservation Club.

**Patrick Ready, Dane County**

My calendar was lined up with bluebird presentations but all were cancelled due to the pandemic. I was able to accomplish a few things anyway. I was able to get new boxes for Holy Wisdom in Middleton. The trail there needed revamping and old boxes replaced. BRAW donated 5 boxes and a generous donor bought 12 boxes for the trail. All are NABS Style boxes made by BRAW member Fred Craig from Holman. The trail will have a new monitor and data will be reported to BRAW in September.

A couple of my trails I manage were in need of new monitors so I recruited them before the season started. Our new membership chair Valerie Van Winkle was helpful in getting a new monitor for the Oaks Golf Course in Cottage Grove. A birding friend took over a small trail at Goth Park.

Steve Lang has taken over monitoring the trail at Token Creek County Park. He has had a super start to the season and I have been answering his questions. Steve finds the darnedest things. He sent me a photo of a wren nest with Tree Swallow eggs! Must
have been a battle for the box and guess who won? He has also helped some other monitors by replacing old boxes and getting trails in order that were “left go” for too long. Thanks Steve for all your help.

I monitor 3 trails myself and things were slow to get going but now things are picking up.

Dave Misterek, Winnebago County
Hi Gene, thanks for your efforts.
I am Dave Misterek, coordinator for Winnebago County. My wife, Christine, and I have been busy getting our bluebird trail at Utica golf club ready for the season. We have added 5 birdhouses for a total of 43 houses. We look forward to a good season.

Jim Beix, Pierce County
On March 7th Lowell Peterson (St. Croix Co.) and I presented a bluebird program at Freedom Park Center in Prescott. Nearby Ellsworth had requested a presentation also so Lowell asked that Ellsworth people come to the Prescott presentation as the towns are only 10-15 miles apart. About 50-55 adults and children attended. A local craftsman had made NABS nest box assembly possible for attendees after the talk. Our formal presentation included bluebird lifecycle, different nest box styles, predator guards, box placement, and monitoring.

Lowell, Jim Higgins and I had planned a similar program for Interstate Park in St. Croix Falls but the pandemic forced postponement of this presentation.

Mary Hollebach, Washington County
We held our Bluebird Box Building Workshop on Sat. March 14th just before the governor’s orders came out to limit group activities in the state. 13 people attended including a couple of grandparents with grandchildren. What a nice family activity! Last week a bluebird monitor in Hartford reported finding two bluebird nests in her boxes on the golf course. I found two bluebird nests as well last week in boxes at Riveredge Nature Center. Hope the birds hold off with other nesting activities until it warms up again!

Don Pritzl, Kewaunee County
That seems to have halted all bluebird progress in this area. Checking with other bluebirders, they are having the same situation. Prior to the storm, we had a number of completed nests and some just started. Now 10 days since the storm has passed and no eggs are appearing in any of the nests. Concerned that snow most likely covered all available food, my brother, Larry Liegel, also a BRAW member, and I, put feeding stations near the site of completed nests. We used Wild Delight for Bluebirds…an advanced formula called BUGS & BERRIES. In addition to sunflower and safflower seeds, it contains dried black soldier fly larvae, dried mealworms, dried darkling beetles, raisins, cranberries and cherries. Most of the stations were emptied of food in a few days. Of course, other birds may have enjoyed it, as well. We are in hopes the bluebirds will return and claim the nests they built and continue with the mission of propagating their species.

Because of COVID-19, the two lectures Larry and I had planned were postponed. We expect to present to the Eau Claire Master Gardener and the Chippewa Valley Learning in Retirement groups when the state lifts restrictions for meeting.

Don Pritzl, Kewaunee County
Not much happening because of the virus. I was scheduled to have a display at the Bird City Algoma Day on April 18, but that was canceled. I have been closing all my boxes, moving some and put up a couple new ones. Looking forward to the coming season. Saw my first bluebird, a beautifully colored male, on March 27, but haven’t seen many since. Weather has been cold and windy so I don’t think any nest building has started yet.

I’m excited that the 2020 Annual Meeting could be in NE Wisconsin. Hoping for a “normal” summer.

Bob Butzer, Vilas County
I have been getting the boxes cleaned and ready with hopes that the bluebirds don’t come back for awhile. We’re having freezing nights and frequent dustings of snow.

Gene Birr, Oconto County
After Cordula Van Den Heuvel and I gave a presentation to a standing-room-only crowd of 130 folks at the hardware store in Shawano in February, we spoke to 20 people who attended her Bird City event at the library in Oconto a week later. But then the current virus pandemic forced my annual talk at the WBU store in Green Bay to be canceled in mid-March.

Della and Gerry Clabots of Suamico have agreed to take over the 35 box trail that Melissa McNeil has monitored there for the last five years. They continue the legacy of our former Brown County Coordinator, Joanne DeVetter who established that trail over ten years ago.

I have prepared 60 nest boxes, ready for use by local monitors who may need them. Barb Allen has taken 12 daylight boxes to use on her golf course trails which are often bothered by House Sparrows. In late March, I assisted Sue Clairmont in re-working two of her trails near Pulaski. We repaired roofs on several boxes, straightened poles on others and replaced some with daylight boxes.

My first observation of a bluebird nest contained 6 eggs already on April 10 on my brother’s farm near Oconto Falls. Two weeks later when I monitored the other 20 boxes nearby, this 6-egg nest was still the only box with a bluebird nest. On another trail there were bluebird nests in 3 of the first 4 boxes, then nothing in the next ten in a row, and only 2 of the 18 on my golf course trail had bluebirds initially.

Rita Gundry, Eau Claire County
Eau Claire County endured an 8.5-10 inch snowstorm on Easter Sunday, followed by unseasonably cold weather, dropping into the teens overnight.
Getting to Know
Your County Coordinator
Don Pritzl, Kewaunee County
I have been the coordinator of Kewaunee County since the mid-90’s and have the county pretty much to myself. I don’t think there’s another person monitoring a bluebird trail in the county.

I’ve spoken to many groups over the years—Boy Scouts, 4-H clubs, Science clubs at the high school, etc. Some of these groups get enthusiastic, build boxes, put them up and then forget about them. I’d rather they not put them up at all if they’re not going to monitor them. I’ve held meetings and trail walks for the public and the same people show up, and they’re as old or older than me.

I may sound pessimistic, but the old adage, “you don’t miss something you never had” seems to apply here. The younger people have other interests that don’t include outdoor activities other than sports. I put articles in the paper occasionally and I have a booth at the Bird City Algoma event each April.

I’ve had some success and a lot of satisfaction on my bluebird trails over the years. I started with just a few boxes in 1992, have had as many as 75 at one time, but have scaled back in recent years. I had 58 boxes this past year with 52 BB nests; 43 were successful, had 216 eggs and fledged 178 bluebirds. Over the years almost 4000 bluebirds have fledged. I’ve had the same problems that everyone has had. Sparrows are always a problem and wrens are increasingly taking over boxes. I’ve moved some boxes, but I have trouble finding suitable habitat within reasonable travel distance. Urbanization has taken some of my prime spots, too.

I’ve had boxes stolen, run over by cars, demolished by farm equipment, shot full of holes and one on a golf course was stuffed with old balls! I am 78 years old and find it increasingly difficult monitoring my boxes. Most are on roadides and the deep ditches give me trouble. I will continue as long as I am able, but have been unable to get anyone interested to take over or to get the younger generation interested.

County Coordinator List
By Gene Birr
Thanks to all these Bluebirders that volunteer to be their County Coordinator and help spread the word about Bluebird conservation. Here is the list for 2020.

County Coordinator Phone Email
Adams Beyers, Myron 608-586-4833 richfstop@gmail.com
Ashland Becker, Rich & Carol 715-274-3200 richfstop@gmail.com
Brown Mayer, Steve 920-434-9885 mayersj511@aol.com
Chippewa Anderson, Debbie 715-382-4639 jradma@centurytel.net
Columbia Foote-Martin, Sue 608-333-9645 goosep@chorus.net
Dane Ready, Pat 608-239-0791 birdsready@gmail.com
Dodge Bartholmai, Jack 920-887-1505 jack@bartholmai.com
Door Lukes, Charlotte 920-823-2478 Rnclukes@mwwb.net
Douglas Bergsten, Charles 715-364-2679 charles477@centurytel.net
Eau Claire Gundry, Rita 715-579-5523 gundryrk@uwec.edu
Fond du Lac Kowalski, Ed 715-732-8803 n/a
Green Becker, Rich & Carol 920-312-8142 khnm@ripon.edu
Green Lake Marwitz, David 920-291-6001 dfmarwitz@centurytel.net
Iowa Moody, Dale & Doris 920-846-7040 drydog93@yahoo.com
Jackson Eberhardt, Darrell 715-963-4775 n/a
Kenosha Rosenstiel, Stan 715-845-2436 n/a
Kewaunee Pritzl, Don 920-845-2436 n/a
Lacrosse Marking, Leif 608-779-1794 lcmarking@gmail.com
Marathon Romanak, Michael 920-291-6001 dfmarwitz@centurytel.net
Oconto Birr, Gene 920-826-7552 gbbird22@gmail.com
Outagamie Mayer, Steve 920-434-9885 mayersj511@aol.com
Ozaukee Holleback, Mary 608-846-5024 drydog93@yahoo.com
Pierce Beix, Jim 715-425-6981 jbeix@dishup.us
Racine Rosenstiel, Stan 715-845-2436 n/a
Rock Courtier, Rod 608-882-5859 racourtier@charter.net
Sauk Stehling, Donna & Bill 608-643-0824 donnamstehling@gmail.com
Sawyer Chambers, Diane 715-699-0356 zippydi@centurytel.net
Shawano Meiers, Ruthann 715-758-2463 alstaxidermy@granitewave.com
Sheboygan Curtis, Lee 920-838-2193 n/a
St. Croix Peterson, Lowell 715-247-3243 n/a
Vilas Butler, Bob 715-356-2215 n/a
Washington Holleback, Mary 262-335-9843 mholleback@gmail.com
Waupaca Beyer, Craig & Sheila 920-233-6770 huntsend.wolf.net
Winnebago Misterek, Dave 920-233-6770 dmisterek47@gmail.com

Corrected Bluebird Numbers for 2019
By Steve Falon, Data Collection
Try as I might, it seems that there are oversights in the data. We want all our monitors to be appreciated and recognized. Below is a table of those not included in the previous newsletter, as well as the updated bluebird totals associated with their submissions. I apologize for the oversight!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monitors</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>Number of boxes:</th>
<th>Bluebirds fledged:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bruce &amp; Jerri Brewer</td>
<td>Monroe</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>187</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeff &amp; Abby Duebler</td>
<td>Monroe</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>162</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warren &amp; Janet Evans</td>
<td>Monroe</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bessie Kmieck &amp; C. Lautermilch</td>
<td>Monroe</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>256</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cathy Malzacher &amp; Sharon Teske</td>
<td>Monroe</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>157</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bob Lucas (Swamp Lover’s)</td>
<td>Dane</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jack Bartholmai</td>
<td>Dodge</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>159</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Totals 6,824 15,867
BRAW Welcomes These Members

BRAW welcomes these new and returning members. For the Blues!

Sally Tetrault, Dresser
Roger & Kristi Williams, Cottage Grove
Sherry Seubert & Jim Ryan, Baileys Harbor
Amy & Jeff Maras, Egg Harbor
Kari & John Adank, Onalaska
Greg & Beth Clabots, Green Bay
Laurel Holgerson, Madison
Melissa Kesling, Oregon
Gib Docken, Mt. Horeb
Rachel Urban, Eau Claire
Andrew Graf, Eau Claire
Mary Naylor, Waupaca
Juliana Van Winkle, Racine
Kelly Barbeau, Madison
Kaye Forstek, Green Bay – new Life member
Chara Matti, Madison
Howard Fenton, Madison
Tracee Neumann, Mukwonago
Connie Anderson, Stockholm
Craig Fox, Butternut
Nathan & Jenny Knuth, Cornells
Barbara Streber, Deforest
Nicole Remackel, River Falls
Herb Wiser, Hudson, IL
Cathy Daus, Wautoma

BRAW thanks the following individuals for their generosity.

Donations:
Karen Kinziner, Fond du Lac $25 undesignated
Melissa Kesling, Oregon $15 nest box
Gib Docken, Mt. Horeb $15 nest box
Gerald and Della Clabots, Green Bay $100 undesignated
Jerry Martin, Gurnee, IL $700 undesignated
Deb Knudsen, Madison $15 nest box
Phyllis Feiner, Spring Green $100 trails
Roger and Kristi Williams, Cottage Grove $25 nest boxes

BRAW Summer Financial Report

By Dan Schroeder, Treasurer
Greetings, Bluebirders!
This has certainly been a strange year on many fronts – but at least we have some positive news regarding our BRAW financial picture. Year-to-date (April 30), here’s a chart of our main revenue and expense categories:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REVENUES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Memberships</td>
<td>6,505</td>
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<tr>
<td>Donations</td>
<td>2,439</td>
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<tr>
<td>Material Sales</td>
<td>1,458</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL REVENUES</td>
<td>10,402</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXPENSES</th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Operations</td>
<td>3,715</td>
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<tr>
<td>Material &amp; Equipment</td>
<td>1,390</td>
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<tr>
<td>Financial Costs</td>
<td>59</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL EXPENSES</td>
<td>5,164</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NET REVENUE</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5,238</td>
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</table>

This net gain was made in large part by new memberships and the generous donations of our bluebirding friends. Many thanks to our regular and new members! Based on our history of revenues and expenses for the remaining months of the year, we are able to project the year-end results as a positive one for our Association. This looks to be a positive year financially with your continued support!

Andy

BRAW.org Will Be Changing Soon!

By Steve Sample, V.P.
Some of our users know that in the past we found our website compromised by hacker groups on several occasions. The reason for this problem came from the software we have been using. This software had little security built in and is known for its issues like the one we have been having. We had to do something.
Locating a person willing to re-write and transfer the site to an improved location using secure software, is not an easy find without great cost. Well, I have a very good friend who does this type of activity and he agreed to pursue this monstrous chore, but also at NO cost to BRAW! Wow! Let me introduce Andy Garcia-Rivera. Andy does not hesitate to take on challenges and looking at his past occupations, it is obvious. He has worked as a Radiation and Corporate Biological Safety Officer at Covance Laboratories, but more impressive is he has served as a Director of Environmental, Health and Safety at three Universities: University of Colorado, Cornell University and notably the UW of Madison. He is retired now.
We are all hard working and dedicated volunteers to enhance bluebird populations in our state. Andy is dedicated to help us in a different way. We can look forward to our new web setup in the near future. Thanks Andy!
Show Us Your Bluebirds!
Enter the BRAW Photo Contest for a Chance to Win a $50 Amazon Gift Card and MORE!  
The contest is open to all BRAW members. Photos of bluebirds are preferred but photos of other cavity nesters are also accepted. There will be first, second and third place winners.  
**RULES:**  
Open to BRAW Members only.  
Original photography please.  
Up to 3 submissions (photos) per person.  
Photos do not need to be from the current year.  
Photos will be judged on composition, image quality and subject matter. *Judges will not be affiliated with BRAW.*

**FIRST PLACE**  
A $50 Amazon Gift Card  
Your photo on the cover of the *Wisconsin Bluebird* Newsletter - Winter Issue.  
A free, one-year subscription to the newsletter for yourself, a friend or family member.

**SECOND PLACE**  
A $25 Amazon Gift Card  
A free, one-year subscription to the newsletter for yourself, a friend or family member.

**THIRD PLACE**  
A free, one-year subscription to the newsletter for yourself, a friend or family member.

**Submission deadline is September 1st.**

Please email your photographs (JPEG file) with your name, location and any other information that you think others will find interesting to: Pat Ready at birdsready@gmail.com.  
Subject line: BRAW Bluebird Contest  
No mail in photos please.

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Make a Predator Guard

**Materials:**  
1 x 4” pine or cedar board  
Hardware cloth cut to 16”x6”  
3 Screws 1-1/2” long

**Tools:**  
Staple Gun  
Drill  
Hammer (to pound staples down firm)

Cut the wood to 4-1/2” length  
Drill a 1-1/2” entrance hole or an oval hole in the piece.  
Starting on the bottom wrap the hardware cloth around the wood piece stapling it several times as you go. Drill 3 holes for screws in the wood piece for easy fastening to the box.

The wood block is optional. You can attach the wire directly to front with several screws and washers but the block of wood makes a sturdier guard.
Worksheet for BRAW Data

This form is for your convenience when recording your data for the Form 21 at the end of the nesting season.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monitor:</th>
<th>Year:</th>
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This sheet is for:
- [ ] Bluebird data
- [ ] Tree Swallow data
- [ ] House Wren data
- [ ] Black-capped Chickadee data

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Box Type</th>
<th>Boxes with no bird use</th>
<th>Success</th>
<th>Double Brood</th>
<th>Triple Brood</th>
<th>Number of eggs</th>
<th>Number of eggs hatched</th>
<th>Number of young</th>
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Membership Renewal Information

By Valerie Van Winkle, Membership Services
It may be time to renew your annual membership to the Bluebird Restoration Association of Wisconsin (BRAW), so that we can update our mailing list with the least cost and effort.

Look at the address label on your newsletter. The number group following your name indicates the month and year of expiration. If your label reads Summer 2020 your membership will expire with this issue.

You will also be able to renew or join as an Online Paperless member and get the newsletter by email. We will send you the issue electronically. This will save us postage, reduce printing cost and conserve paper. You can print it if you desire.

Fill out the membership renewal form and send it with your check or money order to BRAW Membership, c/o Valerie Van Winkle, PO Box 628492, Middleton, WI 53562

If we do not receive your renewal August 1, your membership will begin with the next issue after payment is received. We no longer mail out back issues and back date memberships.

The basic $25 Individual/Family membership covers the cost of printing and mailing the quarterly Wisconsin Bluebird newsletter.

The next issue of the Wisconsin Bluebird goes into production in July and was mailed to arrive the first week in September. Memberships received after August 1 may not be processed in time to receive the Fall newsletter. Consider a one time $300 Life Membership in BRAW. Life members do not have to renew.

Consider the Special $10 Gift Membership (Online only).

All Renewals/New Memberships received now will begin with the Fall issue.

New members can use the form below to join BRAW.

Please complete the membership renewal form provided here and return it to BRAW as soon as possible. Now you can renew your membership at www.braw.org and use PayPal or a credit card and you don’t need to mail anything in.

A BRAW subscription makes a great Anytime gift! $10 includes Online Newsletter Give the gift of Bluebirds!

Wisconsin Bluebird Subscription and BRAW, Inc. Membership
Yes! I would like to renew/join my membership with the Bluebird Restoration Association of Wisconsin, Inc. and receive its newsletter Wisconsin Bluebird. Enclosed is my check/money order (do not send cash) made out to BRAW, Inc. for the following:

Subscription/Membership contribution:
[ ] $10 Gift Membership (Online via email)
[ ] $15 Student/Teacher (Online via email)
[ ] $20 Online paperless issue via email
[ ] $25 Individual or Family Annual (hard copy mailed)
[ ] $100 Corporate Annual
[ ] $300 Life Membership

Name: ____________________________________________
Address: ____________________________________________
City: ________________________________________________
State: __________ Zip Code: __________
Email Address: ______________________________________
Telephone: ( ) ________________________________
County of residence: ________________________________

[ ] $15 to nest box construction with post & predator guard
[ ] $100 for nest box trail
[ ] ________ for bluebird research
[ ] In addition to my membership contribution, I wish to contribute: $__________

(Contributions to BRAW are tax deductible)

Check appropriate boxes:
[ ] This is a renewal.
[ ] This is a new subscription/membership
[ ] This is a GIFT subscription.

Enclosed please find my check $ ____________

Mail this membership/subscription request to:
BRAW, Inc.
Valerie Van Winkle
PO Box 628492
Middleton, WI 53562

Please note: This form appears in this newsletter as a convenience for all who wish to obtain membership. Memberships expire as noted on your mailing label and should be renewed immediately to ensure continued access to newsletters.

If you renew or join during the year you will be on a quarterly membership basis and will not receive back issues of Wisconsin Bluebird.
The mission and purpose of the Bluebird Restoration Association of Wisconsin, Inc. is to broaden the base of state residents to help Eastern Bluebirds and native cavity nesters by erecting, maintaining and monitoring nest boxes.
Annual Convention Cancelled!
see page 2

Check the address label. If it says “Summer 2020”, then you need to RENEW membership now.

Life cycle of the Black-capped Chickadee by Patrick Ready.

Pair select box and female builds the nest.

Within a week or two 4-7 eggs are usually laid in the nest.

After 12-14 days of incubation the chicks hatch.

The chicks grow quickly being fed by both parents.

After 12-14 days old the chicks are ready to fledge.